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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 03395 021702Z

42
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 059086
Z O 020949Z SEP 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4445

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3395

NODIS CHEROKEE

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR
DEPT PASS SECRETARY ABOARD SAM 86970

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S VISIT DAMASCUS

REF: SECTO 10319

1. MET WITH KHADDAM AT 0700Z AND CONVEYED YOUR DIS-
APPOINTMENT THAT YOUR SCHEDULE WILL NOT PERMIT A VISIT
TODAY (WE HAD NOTIFIED PROTOCOL TO SAME EFFECT ON RECEIPT REFTEL.).
KHADDAM FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND APOLOGIZED THAT LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS
BETWEEN ASAD AND DAMASCUS DELAYED SARG ANSWER TO US FOR SEVERAL

HOURS YESTERDAY.

2. KHADDAM SAID THAT ASAD WAS STILL IN LATAKIA, HAVING
DECIDED STAY ON AFTER LEARNING YOU WOULD NOT BE COMING TODAY.
HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT WAS READY TO RECEIVE YOU AT A
LATER POINT DURING YOUR STAY IN AREA IF YOUR SCHEDULE WILL
PERMIT. I SAID THIS WOULD REQUIRE A CHANGE IN PLAN
WHICH MIGHT NOT BE FEASIBLE GIVEN YOUR COMMITMENTS IN JORDAN
AND WASHINGTON.

3. AT 0930Z KHADDAM TELEPHONED BACK TO CONFIRM THAT PRESIDENT
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EARLY AFTERNOON VISIT TOMORROW
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IF YOU CAN MAKE IT. KHADDAM PERSONALLY HOPES THIS WILL

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BE POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: ONCE AGAIN YOU ARE BEING ASKED GO EXTRA MILE, THIS TIME BECAUSE OF FOULED UP INTERNAL SYRIAN COMMUNICATIONS WHICH MEANT ASAD DID NOT GET MESSAGE YESTERDAY IN TIME REARRANGE HIS OWN SCHEDULE. I VERY MUCH HOPE YOU WILL BE ABLE ADVANCE DEPARTURE FROM AMMAN IN ORDER TO STOP IN HERE. SYMBOLISM OF YOUR COMING WILL BE IMPORTANT. BREVITY OF STOP WILL NOT CAUSE PROBLEM. I AM GENUINELY CONCERNED YOUR NOT COMING COULD BE MISINTERPRETED AS SIGN OF US INDIFFERENCE TO SYRIA IN WAKE OF SINAI SUCCESS. MURPHY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY.

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Draft Date: 02 SEP 1975
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Subject: SECRETARY'S VISIT DAMASCUS
TAGS: OVIP, SY, US, (KHADDAM, ABD AL-HALIM), (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: ALEXANDRIA SECRETARY SS STATE
Type: TE
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